

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of driving a plasma display panel, comprising:  
setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level; and  
setting a period of each sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing one of a high width of the sustaining pulse or a low width of the sustaining pulse,

wherein said period of the sustaining pulse is changed in a stepwise manner in accordance with the average picture level as said average picture level goes from a first level into a second level.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said setting the number of sustaining pulses includes:

setting the number of sustaining pulses in inverse proportion to ~~an~~ the average picture level.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said setting a period of sustaining pulses includes:

setting ~~a high~~ the high width of the sustaining pulse largely in proportion to ~~an~~ the average picture level.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said setting a ~~period~~ the period of sustaining pulses includes:

setting ~~a~~ the low width of the sustaining pulse largely in proportion to ~~an~~ the average picture level.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said setting a period of sustaining pulses includes:

setting ~~a~~ the low width and ~~a~~ the high width of the sustaining pulse largely in proportion to ~~an~~ the average picture level.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a maximum period of the sustaining pulse is wider, by approximately 0.5 $\mu$ s to 10 $\mu$ s, than a minimum period of the sustaining pulse.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said period of the sustaining pulse is changed in at least partial region of said average picture level.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:  
setting a minimum limit frequency at more than a desired average picture level  
such that said period of the sustaining pulse is limited to less than a certain width.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said minimum limit frequency is set such that a maximum period of the sustaining pulse is widened, by approximately 0.5 $\mu$ s to 10 $\mu$ s, than a minimum period of the sustaining pulse.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:  
setting a maximum limit frequency at less than a desired average picture level such  
that said period of the sustaining pulse is limited to more than a certain width.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of driving a plasma display panel, comprising:  
setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level; and

setting a high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the high width being set such that the sustaining pulse has a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher,

wherein a period of the sustaining pulse is increased in a stepwise manner in accordance with the average picture level as said average picture level goes from a lower level into a higher level.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said high width of the sustaining pulse is changed in at least partial region of said average picture level.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of driving a plasma display panel, comprising:  
setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level; and  
setting a low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the low width being set such that the sustaining pulse has a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher,

wherein a period of the sustaining pulse is increased in a stepwise manner in accordance with the average picture level as said average picture level goes from a lower level into a higher level.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said low width of the sustaining pulse is changed in at least partial region of said average picture level.

16. (Currently Amended) A driving apparatus for a plasma display panel, comprising:  
average picture level means for setting an average picture level corresponding to a video data; and

period setting means for setting a period of a sustaining pulse in such a manner to be in proportion to said average picture level set by the average picture level means, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing one of a high width of the sustaining pulse or a low width of the sustaining pulse,

wherein said period of the sustaining pulse is increased in a stepwise manner in accordance with the average picture level as said average picture level goes from a lower level into a higher level.

17. (Currently Amended) The driving apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said period setting means sets ~~a high~~the high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level.

18. (Currently Amended) The driving apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said period setting means sets ~~a low~~the low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level.

19. (Currently Amended) The driving apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said period setting means sets ~~a low~~the low width and ~~a high~~the high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level.

20. (Original) The driving apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:  
limit value setting means for setting at least one of a maximum limit value capable of widening a period of the sustaining pulse and a minimum limit value capable of narrowing said period of the sustaining pulse.

21. (Presently Presented) The driving apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said period setting means receives at least one of said maximum limit value and said minimum limit value to control said period of the sustaining pulse.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said period of the sustaining pulse is increased in a stepwise manner in accordance with the average picture level as said average picture level goes from a lower level into a higher level.